

Baddies: The Musical (Unicorn Theatre, Tooley Street)

By **Mark Taha** - Nov 22, 2015



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This childrens' **musical** begins with the story of Little Red Riding Hood, which is interrupted by guards arresting the Big Bad Wolf. Apparently the Wolf in this fairy tale is the same as the one who tried to blow down the houses of the three little pigs, there being a new policy of removing villains from the stories. This particular Big Bad Wolf finds himself in a police cell with the Ugly Sisters from *Cinderella*, Rumpelstiltskin (who is Scottish in this production), and Captain Hook. The Sisters sing *When You're Ugly*.

Cinderella turns out to be the Big Bad Wolf's girlfriend, and comes in with Peter Pan explaining to him that villains aren't so sexy anymore. Then they sing *If Only The Villains Were Pretty* after the Wolf has given us *I'm A Monster*. The terrifying villain known as the Snuffalo is now the Fluffalo, and the Council For Bedtime Stories is planning makeovers for all the villains. The Hugly Sisters are going to be doing nice things for people; Captain

Hook will become Captain Hanger – a human coat rack; and the Big Bad Wolf is to be shaved, clipped, and turned into a nice rescue dog. Cinderella and Peter Pan are also to be rebooted: she wants to have fun in the story from the start; he's tired of leading gangs of lost children.

Rumpelstiltskin is to be fed to the Snuffalo, who needs this sort of thing to keep him sweet. Apart from that, the problem is that perfect people tend to be incredibly boring in stories, and it turns out that these two weren't that perfect after all. Cinderella was a scheming bitch who had been stringing the Wolf along, and the eternally youthful Peter Pan is actually a phony who uses anti-ageing creams and the like. In fact, these two are the real villains in this story, and as the original five sing after they get back to the beginning, *You Need The Bad Guy*.

The kids will love it, even those over fifty!

Dean Nolan stars as the Big Bad Wolf, and the two sisters look nothing like sisters, but on the plus side they are far from ugly. The show runs until Christmas Eve.

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